

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 CPR-02 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 /094 W

----- 010203

R 090930 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3657

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0284

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ PFOR, BY

SUBJECT: NEW BURUNDI AMBASSADOR TO US AND UN

REF BUJUMBURA 155 (NOTAL)

1. JOSEPH NDABANIWE, AMBASSADOR- DESIGNATE TO WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, IS AT PRESENT IN BUJUMBURA BEING BRIEFED IN PREPARATION FOR HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT. HE WILL RETURN TO ADDIS ABABA ON MARCH 13 AND SPEND TWO OR THREE WEEKS THERE BEFORE PROCEEDING TO WASHINGTON, IF PRESENT SCHEDULE HOLDS.

2. IN AMBASSADORS PRIVATE LUNCHEON FOR HIM MARCH 8, FOLLOWING SUBJECTS AROSE.

3. NDABANIWE SAID FOREIGN MINISTER SIMBANANIYE HAD ASKED HIM TO BE RESIDENT IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN IN NEW YORK. SINCE THIS MET WITH NDABANIWE'S OWN PLANS, HE SAYS HE WAS PLEASED. REASON GIVEN BY FOREIGN MINISTER WAS THAT PRIME INTEREST OF BURUNDI IN ITS WASHINGTON REPRESENTATION AT THIS POINT WAS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN BURUNDI AND THE US. THIS ALSO LINE TAKEN BY PRIME MINISTER, ACCORDING TO NDABANIWE, WHO SAID GRB HAD BEEN COGNIZANT FOR SOME TIME OF TERRNCE'S
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EFFORTS TOWARD SELF- AGGRANDIBDMENT, AND CHANGE WAS WITH
VIEW TOWARD QUIETER DIPLOMACY.

4. AMBASSADOR WENT IN SOME DETAIL INTO HISTORY AND PRESENT
STATUS OF US- BURUNDI RELATIONS AND LEFT SUGGESTION THAT
DEGREE OF FRANKNESS IN DEALING WITH STRONG REACTIONS OF US
GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC TO DEVELOPMENTS IN BURUNDI IN MAY-
JULY 1972 WOULD BE USEFUL. NDABANIWE SAID HE RECOGNIZED
DIFFICULTIES OF ASSIGNMENT WITHIN LIMITS SET BY ANNOUNCED
GRB POLICY AND BY US REACTIONS TO EVENTS AND APPRECIATED
SUGGESTIONS. HE THOUGHT OWN INSTRUCTIONS WOULD IN ANY EVENT
GIVE HIM A HELPFUL FRAME OF REFERENCE.

5. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR HAS KNOWN NDABANIWE SINCE 1970 WHEN
LATTER WENT TO ADDIS ABABA AS BURUNDI AMBASSADOR. HE HAD
GOOD REPUTATION AT THAT TIME AS INTELLIGENT, GRACEFUL,
AND CONSCIENTIOUS REPRESENTATIVE OF BURUNDI POSITIONS.
(ADDIS MAY WISH COMMENT.) HE GIVES IMPRESSION OF
SENSITIVITY TO NUANCES OF SITUATION FACING HIM IN US.
WHILE-- WHATEVER HIS OWN PREDILECTIONS OR EXTENT OF GRB
DESIRE FOR RENEWED COOPERATION AS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED TO
HIM BY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER-- HE MAY FIND
IT DIFFICULT IN SHORT RUN TO TRANSCEND LIMITS IMPOSED BY
ESTABLISHED GRB POSITIONS, HE SHOULD ADD A NEW DEGREE OF
FLEXIBILITY WITHIN THOSE LIMITS.
YOST

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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